

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for finding claims 3 and 13 to be allowable if said claims are rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11. Support for this amendment is found at page 4, line 20 of the specification.

Claims 1-2 and 7-10, 11-12 and 17-20 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al (6,114,411). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants have argued this reference in detail in the response dated December 19, 2002. The Examiner has stated that Applicants' argument that Nakamura does not teach an ink that contains a thermally responsive material is not persuasive. He further states that the term "thermally responsive material" means any material that changes in status, like liquid to solid or solid to liquid, as it is heated, which is the same as the thermoplastic resin emulsions (of Nakamura). The Examiner also states that Applicants argued that in the current invention the thermally responsive material increases in viscosity as it is heated and causes significantly higher viscosity in the ink but that this is not claimed in the invention. Rather, argues the Examiner, Applicant just claims that the ink has thermally responsive material so any kind of thermally responsive material can read on the claimed subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to provide that the thermally responsive material is a material which will cause the viscosity of the ink to increase rapidly when the ink is heated, and thereby cause the ink to rapidly form a non-fluidic gel. Applicants believe that this amendment should obviate the Examiner's rejection. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 11 are novel and inventive over Nakamura, because Nakamura does not describe or suggest a thermally responsive material which rapidly increases in viscosity when it is heated.

Claims 4-6 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al (6,114,411) in view of Gundlach et al (5,888,285) and Takahashi et al (3,981,730). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Again, the rejection has been discussed in detail in the earlier response. Applicants believe that the amendment made to claims 1 and 11 should obviate this rejection.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the claims as amended be allowed.

A

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Meeks Roberts
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,447

SMR:mec
Rochester, New York 14650-2201
Phone: (585) 588-7488
Facsimile: (585) 477-1148

A

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended as set forth below:

1. (Once Amended) An inkjet printing method comprising providing a liquid inkjet ink which contains a thermally responsive material that will cause the viscosity of the ink to increase rapidly when the ink is heated thereby forming a non-fluidic gel at the elevated temperature and applying the liquid inkjet ink onto an inkjet recording element in an imagewise fashion, wherein the inkjet recording element has been heated to a temperature higher than the temperature of the liquid inkjet ink.

11. (Once Amended) An inkjet printing method with controlled color bleed and drop coalescence comprising;

- a) loading ink ejecting elements of a printer with liquid inkjet ink comprising a thermally responsive material that will cause the viscosity of the ink to increase rapidly when the ink is heated thereby forming a non-fluidic gel at the elevated temperature;
- b) loading the printer with an inkjet recording element;
- c) heating the inkjet recording element to a temperature higher than temperature of the inkjet ink in the ink ejecting elements; and
- d) ejecting the liquid inkjet ink from the ink ejecting elements onto the heated inkjet recording element in response to digital data signals.

A